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November 21, 2013

Mr. Peter Brostrom  
Water Use and Efficiency Branch  
California Department of Water Resources  
P. O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Independent Technical Panel on Demand Management Measures – Comments

Dear Mr. Brostrom:

Otay Water District has reviewed recommendations made by the Independent Technical Panel (ITP) and respectfully submits the following comments and concerns with the proposed changes to the Demand Management Measures (DMMs):

- **Energy Intensity** - While water and energy conservation are both worthwhile goals, this proposed change adding new reporting criteria on energy intensity involved in water supply is beyond the focus of Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP). The additional reporting requirement under consideration by the ITP is not as effortless as suggested and instead would result in new costs for water purveyors; costs that are ultimately borne by consumers in the form of higher rates for service. If adopted, this proposed new reporting requirement would be burdensome, unnecessary, and result in no water savings for customers who are better served by focusing on water use efficiency efforts.
- **Expanded Water System Description for Large Water Suppliers** - Requiring more detail about water agency systems may conflict with the Department of Homeland Security's recommendation to avoid reference to water system details in plans available to the general public. Public disclosure of this information could potentially compromise public water systems, would not result in water savings, and is outside the scope of the ITP's review of DMMs.
- **Landscape Ordinance Summaries within Service Area** – This proposed change mandates water agencies consolidate and include details of local landscape ordinances into UWMPs. Providing this type of report in the UWMP will be time consuming, costly, a poor use of limited resources, while being unnecessary and resulting in no water savings.
- **Avoided Cost of Water** – SBX 7-7 establishes legal targets for water conservation regardless of cost effectiveness. As such, this factor is not relevant to a water agency in

achieving the state's conservation goals. Local agencies may choose to use avoided costs and cost effectiveness as a tool for assessing and selecting conservation programs, but this should be left to local discretion and not mandated in UWMPs.

- Department of Water Resources (DWR) Review and Approval of UWMPs to Ensure Water Use Projections Account for Estimated Savings – DWR already provides extensive guidelines for the preparation of UWMPs and conducts a review of the plans submitted. There is no need to further specify review criteria in a new law that is already adequately addressed through DWR guidelines. The new mandates would add significant new costs to DWR, and impose new burdens on DWR staff, without creating any new savings or benefits to water agencies or consumers.

Otay Water District provides water, sewer, and recycled water service to more than 213,000 residents within 125.5 square miles of southeastern San Diego County. Otay has been a long standing signatory to the Urban Water Best Management Practices Memorandum of Understanding and has an equally long commitment to responsively planning for our region's future including promoting water conservation and the use of recycled water. We are also very proud to report that we have not only met but exceeded our SBX 7X requirements, including our 20 percent by 2020 goals for reduced water use within the District's service area.

Given our long history with conservation efforts, we are concerned that the ITP is taking an overly broad view of the scope of their work. The scope, as defined in AB 1420, is to provide information and make recommendations to DWR and the Legislature on new demand management measures, technologies, and approaches. We respectfully request that the emphasis be on fine-tuning existing DMMs versus introducing additional analytical and reporting requirements that will be time-consuming for local agencies to perform and result in additional costs to customers, yet yield no water savings.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you should have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Mark Watton  
General Manager

cc: Otay Water District Board of Directors  
Senator Joel Anderson  
Senator Ben Hueso  
Assemblyman Brian Jones  
Assemblymember Shirley Weber  
Jeff Stephenson, San Diego County Water Authority